Subject: Weekly Newsletter: 2017 Sets LA Records for Trade, Travel and Tourism, Lawsuits Filed Against Port Trucking Companies, Strategic Growth Council Visits Watts and More...
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Date: 1/12/2018, 1:14 PM
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LA 15th Council District

Friend --

READ: 2017 SETS LA RECORDS FOR TRADE, TRAVEL, AND TOURISM

Travel_Video.PNG

By City News Service, *Daily Breeze*

Los Angeles' economy continued to grow in 2017 and experienced a record-breaking year for tourism, airport travel and port cargo, Mayor Eric Garcetti and other city leaders announced Wednesday.

"We are powering Los Angeles' economy to new heights every year, because we know that lasting prosperity means investing boldly in jobs, opportunity, and growth," Garcetti said. "The expansion of our travel and tourism sector, and the success of our port, tell the story of a city whose moment has arrived — and we will continue pushing forward as we expand our role on the world stage, and prepare to welcome the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2028."

Garcetti discussed the statistics during a news conference at the Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport, alongside City Councilman Joe Buscaino, leaders from the Los Angeles Convention & Tourism Development Department, the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board, Los Angeles World Airports and the Port of Los Angeles.

According to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board, 48.3 million tourists visited L.A. in 2017, an increase of more than 2 percent over 2016

and the seventh consecutive year of record-breaking results. Garcetti has set a goal of receiving 50 million visitors a year by 2020.

LAX also broke its record for the total number of passengers for the fourth consecutive year. In 2017, 849 million travelers moved through the airport, an increase of 5 percent over 2016.

The Port of Los Angeles also broke its own record, moving more than 9.3 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units in 2017, the most ever by a port in the Western Hemisphere.

“These latest numbers from the Port, LAX and LA Tourism show that Los Angeles is the premier gateway for worldwide trade and the hottest destination for travelers,” said Buscaino, who chairs the Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee. “In the years to come, those numbers will only continue to improve with the investment of billions of dollars into LAX, Metro and numerous cultural, sports and entertainment venues, including the Lucas Museum, LAFC stadium and the L.A. waterfront.” READ MORE...

READ: LA CITY ATTORNEY FILES LAWSUITS AGAINST THREE PORT TRUCKING COMPANIES

Telemundo.PNG

By Brett Murphy, *USA Today*

The city of Los Angeles filed three lawsuits against some of the busiest port trucking companies in the country Monday, demanding they stop systematically exploiting their workers in the wake of reports by the USA TODAY Network.

"This abuse, this disgraceful exploitation has to stop," City Attorney Mike Feuer said at a news conference Monday, citing the Network's "scathing" coverage of the industry.

Feuer alleged CMI Transportation, K&R Transportation and California Cartage Transportation Express represent industry leaders that knowingly violate state labor laws with "devastating practices" meant to increase executives' bottom lines while driving their workers into debt.

"We're trying to create systemic change, and we'll continue to investigate other companies as well," Feuer said.

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Port_Driver.jpg

Los Angeles Councilman Joe Buscaino, who has led Los Angeles City Council hearings on the issue, praised the city attorney's decision to sue port trucking companies.

"No company is allowed to gain an unfair advantage by exploiting human beings for the sake of corporate profits," Buscaino said in a statement.

After a November special hearing that attracted more than 200 people, the Los Angeles council approved a plan for a city report on the financial possibility of banning companies that violate labor laws and an industrywide audit of lease-to-own contracts. READ MORE…

WATCH: STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL VISITS WATTS

Watts_Towers_Video.PNG

The Housing Authority of The City of L A along with more than a dozen community partners has submitted for a $35M grant from the California State Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Transformative Climate Communities program. SGC evaluators are conducting site visits as a part of their final review and selection process. SGC evaluators are staff from several state agencies, including the California Department of Public Health, the Office of the State Treasurer, the Department of Conservation and the Strategic Growth Council.

The HACLA-led Coalition submitted a proposal - called “Watts Rising” and coalition members include JD Developers (Michaels, Bridge Housing, PrimeStor), Grant HEDC, Watts Latino Org., Project Fatherhood, Urban Peace, Watts Health, Watts Business Incubator, From Lot to Spot, Kaiser, Children’s Institute, NE Trees, Tree People, LAPD, and the Watts Gang Task Force as well as City Departments including DOT, DCA, Mayor’s Office.

This grant would bring $35 million in State funding from the Strategic Growth Council to support projects that will specifically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Watts.

The projects would be implemented over a period of three years, from 2018-2021 as part of a larger community transformation of Watts. If awarded, the following activities would be supported:

- bring new sustainable affordable housing;
- provide energy efficient retrofits for existing homes and apartments;
- build safe and healthy streets for people walking, biking and taking public transit;
- establish healthy green public parks and gardens;
- provide urban tree canopy, urban agriculture; opportunities and stormwater management;
- bring green sustainability features to school campuses, public housing sites, residential properties and public rights-of-way;
- expand mobility options with low carbon transportation projects and programs like electric vehicle car sharing; and
- focus all programs on developing strong business, job- training and job opportunities.

READ: SUNKEN CITY ROCK FALL INVESTIGATED

Sunken_City.jpg

By Bianca Barragan, Curbed LA

A December rockslide at San Pedro's Sunken City serves as a reminder of just how dangerous the site can be. But it's also reinvigorating a movement to safely sanction public access to the urban ruins.

When city engineers visited the bluffs last month to investigate the landslide, they spotted "several unauthorized people... within the 'prohibited' Sunken City landslide area," and several more were seen hopping over a section of a fence designed to block visitors. They documented what they saw in a report released Tuesday.

That documented flow of trespassers lines up with what many San Pedro residents say is the problem with the fence: It doesn't work—so why not take it down?

In response to the report, Los Angeles City Councilmember Joe Buscaino, who represents the area, reaffirmed his support for safely opening part of the urban ruin to the public.

Buscaino says he's working with recreation and parks, the bureau of engineering, and a handful of other city departments "to create and adopt a plan to clean-up portions of Sunken City, making it a safer and legally accessible extension of Pt. Fermin Park." READ MORE…

STREET IMPROVEMENTS ON ANAHEIM BLVD IN WILMINGTON

Anaheim.jpg

Street improvements on Anaheim continue with the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons. These beacons increase pedestrian safety by increasing visibility and highlight the presence of pedestrians. These improvements are a part of the City's Vision Zero program which is

aimed at reducing the number of traffic collision deaths to zero by 2025.

WATCH: ARE YOU FOLLOWING @PLANNING4LA ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

What_is_Planning.PNG

This week the City of Los Angeles Planning Department launched their Planning 101 video series on Youtube! If you are interested in development, housing, and land use in the City of Los Angeles, or want to stay up to date on public meetings related to development in your neighborhood then you should be following the Department on Facebook @Planning4LA. The Department is also on Twitter @Planning4LA, Instagram @Planning4LA, and Youtube.

LA CHAMBER TO HOST FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOPS

super_saturday_feb3.jpg

FinAid_WS.jpg

Need help applying for financial aid? More than 160 financial aid completion workshops held throughout greater Los Angeles will have trained volunteers to provide FREE one-on-one assistance to thousands of high school seniors and their families completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), California Dream Act application or Chafee Grant application. For any other questions contact: KRomero@lachamber.com. MORE INFO…

VOLUNTEER: GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT

Homeless_Count.PNG

PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY HOSTS WILD

AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

Cover_Lighter_Version.jpg

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

DS_4fKzUQAE6Etb_(1).jpg

This week NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell gave the Watts Bears coaches from LAPD Southeast tickets to #SuperbowlLII!

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